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Ex-spy says CIA is protected by a 'policy of lies'

By PAUL SPANGLER

John Stockwell, the highest level official to resign from the CIA and author of "In Search of Enemies," told a large audience at Stanford University that the U.S. government is locked in a "policy of lies."

Stockwell, a 13-year veteran of the CIA and former Angolan Task Force Commander, said Thursday, April 26, "The President and the Secretary of State, have to lie to protect the CIA and the CIA must lie for the 'protection of sources and methods'."

"Since the CIA was created in 1947, at least one million people have been killed directly by CIA covert operations," Stockwell said. "Millions more have been killed indirectly."

Stockwell said that covert operations are "destabilization programs which are designed to make people so miserable that their society and economy simply fall apart. This is accomplished, in part, by blowing up bridges so farmers can't get their goods to market, and by rolling grenades into schoolhouses and department stores." He said the CIA did just that to China for 19 years before the State department decided "friendship could be more profitable."

"In Cuba, among other things, we infected livestock with swine fever, assassi-

nated or attempted to assassinate officials including [Fidel] Castro, and we had the port of Havana bombed twice. The second bomb exploded while rescue operations were going on after the first attack."

For years Stockwell had been told: "If you knew what the 'gray beards' (senior intelligence officers) knew, then you'd know we're doing the right thing." But upon becoming a National Security Council (NSC) subcommittee member, he found the gray beards were not as wise as he had been led to believe. The first NSC briefing on Angolan operations began by showing the members where Angola was on the world map. During one session, Secretary of State Kissinger (who was also the Executive Secretary of the NSC) kept his back to the council members and sulked because someone took his favorite chair. Kissinger had been known to say, "Nothing south of the equator amounts to anything." Stockwell said other members of the NSC would sleep through meetings. "It was disgusting. They looked like bored college students trying to hide their open mouths and closed eyes while deciding if people were going to die or not."

During the talk he also discussed covert operations in Vietnam (where he had been chief of station), Guatemala, Congo (Zaire), Chile and Grenada. Stockwell also talked about the U.S. sponsored "Public Safety Program" in which torture techniques were taught to Latin police, as well as the CIA's drug and biological warfare experiments in the Bay Area and the U.S. in general.

Stockwell says the CIA currently is running ten major covert operations and is resuming surveillance of citizens in the U.S.

He also said that while the profits of his book (and other books by ex-CIA discontents) have been impounded, "The Company" [CIA] pays "several hundred" journalists to write articles and some professors to write books from the CIA's point of view.